

HONORING CORPORAL EUGENE COLE

(Mr. POLIQUIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POLIQUIN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, my fellow Mainers woke up to heartbreaking news: Corporal Eugene Cole, a deputy at Somerset County Sheriff's Office in Norridgewock, was shot and killed in the line of duty. This horrific act was the first killing of a police officer in Maine in almost 30 years.

Every day, Mr. Speaker, for 13 years, Eugene Cole put on his uniform and his equipment and set out to protect our families in Maine. Mr. Cole served central Maine with honor and integrity and a relentless sense of duty.

Mr. Speaker, Maine is one of the safest places in the country to live and work and raise your kids, and that is because of heroes like Eugene Cole. I am so grateful for his work and his sacrifice.

On behalf of all of my fellow Mainers, Mr. Speaker, I send our deepest sympathies to the family of Eugene Cole. I will be praying for them during this very, very difficult time.

THE NEXT VA SECRETARY

(Mr. BANKS of Indiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BANKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of our Nation's veterans.

Over the last 16 months, this Congress and President have made tremendous progress for the men and women who have served our country in uniform. Congress passed and the President signed into law the largest expansion of GI benefits since World War II: appeals reform, the Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act, and several other important bills.

As a member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, I have been proud to author legislation and contribute to these initiatives on behalf of Hoosier veterans. But there is still so much more to do for our veterans and to address many of the longstanding issues within the VA, which is why it is absolutely vital that our next VA Secretary has the experience and commitment needed to build upon the progress that we have already made.

Our veterans have made tremendous sacrifices to keep our Nation free and secure, and they deserve the highest quality of people serving at the VA. Today, I urge the Trump administration to nominate a VA Secretary committed to making important reforms and serving our Nation's heroes who have served us so well.

PAKISTAN'S SUPPORT OF TERRORISTS

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Pakistan has been betraying the international community and is supporting terrorism. The Financial Action Task Force officially placed Pakistan on its grey list of countries not doing enough to counter terror finance. Not only does Pakistan provide safe haven for all stripes of terrorist groups, it also turns a blind eye to so-called Islamic charities tied to terrorist operations and other terrorist financiers. Pakistan has paid lip service to the fight against terrorism, while supporting the very criminals that kill Americans and our allies.

Mr. Speaker, I was just at the White House where the President honored many of our wounded warriors, some of them wounded in Afghanistan and Iraq. Pakistan's intelligence services have fostered working relationships with the Haqqani network, al-Qaida, and the Taliban—terrorist groups. Meanwhile, the Pakistan Government has received over \$30 billion of American aid.

Pakistan is a Benedict Arnold unfaithful ally. We need to stop paying Pakistan to betray us. They will do it for free.

And that is just the way it is.

KANSAS TEAMS REACH THE NATIONAL SCIENCE BOWL NATIONAL FINALS

(Mr. YODER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Blue Valley West High School and Pleasant Ridge Middle School on winning their regional competitions of the National Science Bowl.

Since 1991, the Department of Energy has been using the National Science Bowl to encourage students from diverse backgrounds who excel in science and mathematics to pursue careers in those areas. For our Nation to remain the beacon of innovation and creation that it is today, we must support and inspire our youth to experiment and explore the world around them.

In January of this year, 9,000 high school students and 4,500 middle school students passionate about science and mathematics began to compete. The young people from my district worked hard and have found themselves participating in the national finals. Starting today, these two bright groups of young people will represent Kansas in the National Science Bowl's national finals.

Mr. Speaker, I call upon all of us in this body to join me in wishing Blue Valley West and Pleasant Ridge's team good luck in the National Science Bowl's national finals.

□ 1230

FAA REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2018

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 4.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YODER). Pursuant to House Resolution 839 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 4.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from New York (Mr. DONOVAN) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 1232

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 4) to reauthorize programs of the Federal Aviation Administration, and for other purposes, with Mr. DONOVAN in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

General debate shall not exceed 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) and the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, in calling up H.R. 4, the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018, this bipartisan legislation is cosponsored by every chair and ranking member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

This bill is critical to our economy, to millions of Americans who work in aviation, and to hundreds of millions of Americans who use the system every year. H.R. 4 authorizes FAA programs through FY 2023.

This is a long-term bill, something that is overdue. Too often, our aviation programs face short-term extensions, CRs, and threats of government shutdowns. We are now operating on the fifth extension from the last long-term FAA law, which was signed on February 14, 2012.

Before the bill was signed into law, Congress passed 23 short-term extensions. This is an incredible amount of uncertainty for programs that rely on long-term stability. That uncertainty was one of the reasons I initially pushed for air traffic control reform, to separate the modernization of our system from the unreliable Federal budget process.